

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Takeshi HIROSE

Serial No.: 10/730,257

Filed: December 9, 2003

For: INFORMATION PROCESSING DEVICE

FOR DIVER, CONTROL METHOD,

CONTROL PROGRAM AND RECORDING:

MEDIUM THEREOF, DIVING

EQUIPMENT AND CONTROL METHOD

OF DIVING EQUIPMENT

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant brings the attached reference to the Examiner's attention and requests that it be considered and made of record in this application. Also attached is a completed PTO-1449 form. *No fee is believed to be due for this Information Disclosure Statement*. However, if a first Office Action on the merits was mailed before the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-1836. A duplicate copy of this Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

Japanese Laid-Open Utility-Model Patent Publication No. 7-31597 appears to disclose diving equipment having a plurality of air cylinders 8. The diving equipment disclosed in this publication includes a back-up switching valve 21 for opening/closing an air passage 19 between one of the air cylinders 8 and a collector passage 3b such that the one of the air cylinders 8 is arranged as a back-up cylinder used only in emergency situations. When remaining air amount of all the other air cylinders 8 becomes low, an alarm device 6 is configured to alert a diver by issuing an alarm sound and vibrating a mouthpiece 5. This publication also discloses arranging the back-up switching valve 21 such that the back-up

switching valve 21 is operated by the diver from the outside of a main body of the diving equipment.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Tarnoff
Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 32,383

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Dated: 5-13-04

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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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## SURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Complete if Known 10/730,257 Application Number Filing Date December 9, 2003 First Named Inventor Takeshi HIROSE Group Art Unit **Examiner Name** 

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 SE-US035180 of 1 Attorney Docket Number

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Cite No.'	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages Columns Lines Where Relevant		
	Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear		
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
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Signature	Considered	ĺ

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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is